

Remarks

All independent claims have now been amended to further distinguish over the reference to de Keyser et al by limiting the claims to “consisting essentially of”.

On page 2 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-25, and on page 3, the Examiner rejected claims 26-29 as being unpatentable over de Keyser et al (WO 02/057386) (“de Keyser”). De Keyser has been distinguished in present invention in Paragraphs 15-20. More specifically, in Table 2 in Paragraph 0083 (see page 23) Composition B is the same as Composition E in Table 2 of the de Keyser et al. Specifically, the molecular weight of the polystyrene, the total molecular weight, the coupling efficiency, the polystyrene content percent, the butadiene isoprene ratio, are all identical. From Table 4 of the present invention, on page 25 of the Application, it is noted that Composition B, (the viscosity at 177°C after 24 hours) has gelled and can no longer be measured. Even after 6 hours, the viscosity is now 127 Pa.s, whereas Polymers A, B, and C are still within the range of plus or minus 5% as set forth in each independent claim 11, 16, and 21 of the present invention. More specifically, it is noted that de Keyser has a range of molecular weight which exceeds that of the present invention and has viscosities measured after 24 hours which either cannot be measured or are gelled to the extent that their viscosity range, after 24 hours, exceeds the plus or minus 5%. The coupling efficiency in de Keyser exceeds the claims of the present invention.

In summary, the independent claims of the present invention call for a molecular weight which is less than that in the examples of de Keyser et al, call for viscosities which vary only within plus or minus 5% after 24 hours (whereas the de Keyser viscosities have gelled to the

extent that they are unmeasurable, or greatly exceed 5%) and the coupling efficiency of the present invention is in a lesser range. In view of these remarks, it is believed that the present application has now sufficiently distinguished itself from de Keyzer, and in fact, is a narrower invention than de Keyzer. It is noted that a chief characteristic of the present invention is to maintain a low viscosity, i.e. maintain it to within plus or minus 5% of the original viscosity. De Keyzer, on the other hand, shows a viscosity which greatly exceeds the 5%, and thus after 24 hours the de Keyzer formulation can no longer be employed as an adhesive composition for pressure sensitive adhesives because the composition in most cases has gelled. Accordingly, not only did the present invention comment on the fact that the de Keyzer reference has poor viscosity (see Paragraph 0017), but this is a key component of the present invention which is a narrower invention than the de Keyzer invention.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims, and in view of the remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and such is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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